



ORAL PRESENTATION

by

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Symposium on “Pursuing now a world without arms: non-war, faith, and science” at
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Introduction

My presentation begins with an interpretation of *Russell-Einstein Manifesto*, to which Dr. AL-Shahristani referred in his keynote address, and ends with the identification of three roles that the people of religion must fulfill for achieving a world, which the *Manifesto* wishes to accomplish.

The basis of *Russell-Einstein Manifesto*

As Dr. AL-Shahristani shared with us in his keynote address Dr. Joseph Rotblat’s words that the loyalty of the founding members of Pugwash Conferences to humankind must be greater than their loyalty to nations, the *Manifesto* is longing for the prevention of war and the abolition of nuclear weapons on behalf of humankind or people, overcoming the framework of sovereign states.

Likewise, Dr. AL-Shahristani refers in his address to the sentence, which appears in the last paragraph of the *Russell-Einstein Manifesto*: “We appeal, as human beings, to human beings: Remember your humanity,...” I as a person of religion believe that the ‘remembrance of humanity’ is another important objective of the *Manifesto*, next to ‘the prevention of war’ and ‘the elimination of nuclear weapons.’

Required international constitutionalism

Meanwhile, for the pursuance of a world without arms, which is the theme of this symposium, I firmly believe that ‘international constitutionalism’ is required as a political philosophy in parallel with the remembrance of humanity, which is a moral approach. International constitutionalism implies questioning the absoluteness of sovereignty of a state. And it is a philosophy, which makes the existing legal rules more firmly universalized in international relations. International constitutionalism is, in addition, a prescription to “the erosion of international institutions and norms”, which was pointed out in the keynote address.

Roles fulfilled by the people of religion

Hereby, as a response to the keynote address that eloquently described the responsibilities of scientists,

let me identify three roles that the people of religion must fulfill so that the abolition of nuclear weapons and the prevention of war be achieved. These roles assist in laying the foundation for international constitutionalism.

First, Buddhism, which I believe in, teaches: “Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.” Christianity also teaches: “Do to others what you would have them do to you. Judaism teaches: “Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.” Islam teaches: “No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.” These teachings are being recognized in unison as ‘Golden Rule.’ I firmly believe that the Golden Rule may be one dimension of ‘humanity’, which the *Russell-Einstein Manifesto* urges us to remember. **Therefore, while propagating the Golden Rule to the world citizens, the people of religion should be a driving force for international cooperation and go against the ‘Make my Country First’ policy, which generates confrontation and division.**

Second, the religious leaders stressed in the Assembly Declaration adopted at the First World Conference on Religions for Peace that was held at Kyoto Japan in October 1970: “We say that the point of departure for any serious effort in human enterprise—educational, cultural, scientific, social, and religious—is the solemn acceptance of the fact that men and all their works are now united in one destiny.” **Therefore, the people of religion spare no effort in achieving a world where the ‘common good’ of peoples in the world is realized.**

Third, Judge Christopher Weeramantry, who was the Vice President of International Court of Justice, when the Court issued the advisory opinion in July 1996 that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is in principle contrary to international law..., once stated; “All legal systems at the formative stages of development drew heavily upon religious principles.” **Therefore, the people of religion ought to commit themselves to being the guardians for the international order under law, in addition to the guardianship of political leaders.**

Conclusion

I wish to end my presentation by hoping that the partnership between Pugwash Conferences and Religions for Peace (WCRP) is further deepened in the coming years to realize what the *Russell-Einstein Manifesto* is longing for.

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